

Attorney Docket No. 7175-73841

Application No. 10/698,609 (Filed October 31, 2003)

Reply to Office Action dated December 3, 2004

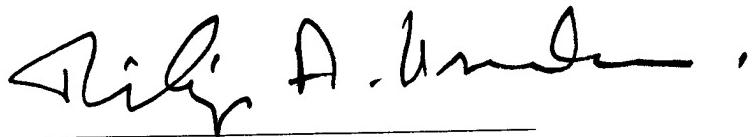
**REMARKS**

The following apparent errors are noted in the Office Action dated December 3, 2004: The Examiner rejected claims 1-42 which were previously canceled by a Preliminary Amendment dated October 31, 2003. The Examiner failed to issue an action on merits with respect to pending claims 43-45. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that the Office Action dated December 3, 2004 be withdrawn and a new Office Action be issued taking into account the claim amendments presented with this response.

In view of the foregoing amendment and supporting remarks, the subject application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview would expedite the allowance of this application, he is requested to contact the undersigned for a prompt resolution of any outstanding issues.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages and other fees be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 10-0435, with reference to file 7175-73841.

Respectfully submitted,  
BARNES & THORNBURG



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